

AUN to Participate in Canada-Funded Research on Boko Haram, Insurrection in Northern Nigeria

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Story Views: 170

Yola, Adamawa, Nigeria: July 10th, 2018:

A consortium of nine universities in Canada and the Lake Chad basin countries of Nigeria, Chad, Niger, and Cameroon has secured a preliminary grant of C\$198,000 to build a massive database on the Boko Haram insurrection in the Lake Chad basin.

The grant is to fund an international scholars' partnership that can design a significant research initiative and gain the approval of the Canadian Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) that is providing the preliminary grant.

If satisfied with the design architecture, SSHRC, a federal research-funding agency that 'promotes and supports post-secondary research and training,' will provide an additional endowment to carry out the actual research.

Primarily, the grant will fund logistic support for a series of planned meetings in Yola, elsewhere in the Lake Chad basin countries, and in Canada. These meetings will eventually produce a comprehensive proposal for the actual research that may require more funds.

To this end, the consortium led by York University, Toronto, Canada, is assembling more than 20 scholars on Africa from places like York, McGill, University of Ottawa, and those in Nigeria, Chad, far north Cameroon, and Niger.

The chair of the Department of Politics & International Studies at the American University of Nigeria (AUN), Prof Bill Hansen, who serves on the five-member steering committee of the project, said the spadework is intended to produce data on all aspects of the Chad basin region, including education, health, environment, agriculture, politics, economics, religion, and multiple other topics and sub-topics.

"The intent is that it will create the most complete and comprehensive collection on Boko Haram and the entire Lake Chad basin."

Included on the Canadian side of the research team are Prof Paul E. Lovejoy, one of the few global authorities on slavery in West Africa and the Atlantic slave trade. Lovejoy, who heads the steering committee, is the lead applicant for the grant, and Bruno Veras, his Ph.D. student, manages the grant.

President of AUN, Dr. Dawn Dekle, who congratulated Prof Hansen and his fellow international scholars, said the choice of AUN was as much a statement of endorsement of the university's leadership in research scholarship and humanitarian intervention as it was a recognition of Professor Bill Hansen's essential contributions to global understanding of the origins of the insurgency.

Professor Hansen says the path-breaking joint project will ultimately be a significant step forward for AUN and research on Boko Haram and insurrection in Nigeria.

Prof Hansen has researched extensively and published critically-acclaimed studies on Boko Haram and Muslim-Christian relations in Northern Nigeria. His strong argument is that the insurgency is directly fueled by social inequalities and mismanagement of the sociopolitical space by successive governments.

His most recent research publication Poverty and 'Economic Deprivation Theory': Street Children, Qur'anic Schools/Almajirai and the Disposed as a Source of Recruits for Boko Haram and other Religious, Political and Criminal Groups in Northern Nigeria was published in Perspectives on Terrorism, 10 (5). Another significant landmark research, Parasites, Predators, and Terrorists: the Nigerian State and Boko Haram, has been accepted for publication by the Africa World Press (Trenton, NJ).

In 2015 he published Boko Haram: Religious Radicalism and Insurrection in Northern Nigeria, (Journal of Asian and African Studies), to critical acclaim. In it, Prof Hansen wrote that he was "...interested in shedding light on why a phenomenon such as Boko Haram came into existence and why it poses a threat to the very existence of the Nigerian state....Boko Haram is the entirely logical consequence of more than five decades of the post-colonial Nigerian state ruled by a parasitic predator class that is itself a by-product of the colonial state."

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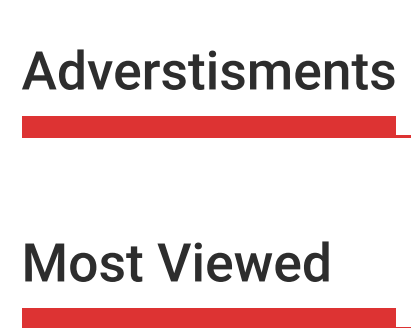


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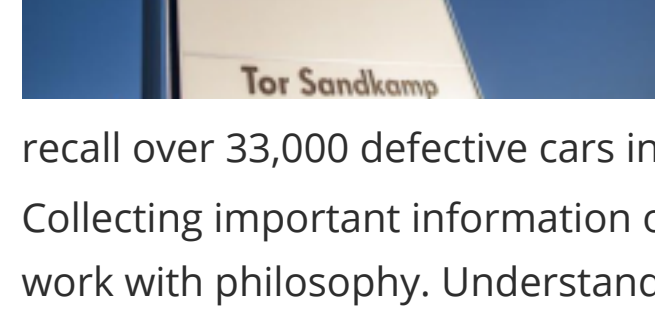
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